Rs. 122.84 crores, about Rs. 88.04 crores (71.67%) were utilized as per the reports received from the State Government of Jharkhand. During the year 2001-2002, Rs. 205.86 crores in cash (including Opening balance and Central and State share) together with foodgrains of the value of Rs. 87 crores were available with the State Government for generation of employment opportunities and creation of durable community assets in rural areas.

The utilization of funds during the year 2000-2001 was not of the desired level. The State Government of Jharkhand have been requested to step up utilization otherwise deductions will be made against the allocation at the time of releasing second instalment in the current year.

Grants for rehabilitation of Panchayat Raj Institutions in J and K

3311. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of acute militancy and constant threat from cross-border militants, State Government of Jammu and Kashmir has conducted Panchayat elections successfully under Panchayat Raj Act of 1989 for restoring basic democratic institutions in the State after 24 years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to non-availability of funds the State Government could not give remuneration to Sarpanchs and Panchs as is being given in other States in the country; and

(c) if so, whether Central Government would provide Rs. 10 crores as a special case for rehabilitating Panchayati Raj Institutions and for their training?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir conducted elections to Village Panchayats in the State in Jan.-Feb., 2001. There is no Scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development under which funds could be provided to the State Government/Union Territories for rehabilitating Panchayati Raj Institutions as well as for giving remuneration to Sarpanchs and Panchs. However, the Ministry extends limited financial assistance to the State Government/Union Territories for imparting training to the representatives of Panchayats.